

# Department of California Highway Patrol

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## The CHP Has Another Enforcement Tool, You and the Vehicle Theft Hotline!

(Sacramento, CA) – Today at the Sacramento Light Rail Train Station at 12<sup>th</sup> and Q Streets, California's Statewide Vehicle Theft Advisory Committee joined the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in unveiling the CHP's latest message to help law enforcement fight vehicle theft. The side of a Sacramento light rail train reads, *Report Vehicle Theft Activity by calling 1-800-TELL-CHP*. That's right, a toll free telephone number straight to the CHP. "Although vehicle theft in California is on it's way down, law enforcement needs your help to make sure we stay on top," said CHP Commissioner Dwight Helmick.

Last year, the most popular vehicle theft targets for autos were the 78-86 Oldsmobile Cutlass, the 1988-92 Honda Accord and the 1984-89 Toyota Corolla. So far this year (January through June 1997), the 1981-88 Toyota Camry ranks as number one, followed by the 1990-91 Honda Accord and then the 1987 Toyota Camry. These cars are followed by the 1984 Oldsmobile Cutlass, the 1980-82 Toyota Corolla and the 1985 Oldsmobile Cutlass. Knowing which vehicles are popular targets among thieves, gives car owners an edge. The CHP recommends owners of high target vehicles take extra precaution in securing their vehicles. Be on the lookout for suspicious vehicle theft activity and report it. With an estimated one out of every 99 Californians becoming a victim of vehicle theft each year, chances are you know someone who has had their car stolen. You could be next.

**1-800-TELL-CHP** is a toll free telephone number linked directly to the CHP Communications Center located in Fresno, California. Dispatchers are on duty, 24 hours a day, seven days a week to take calls from citizens with information about suspected vehicle theft activity. This activity can include:

- Any suspicious activity involving vehicle repairs late at night.
- Countless vehicles coming and going from one location.
- Newer model vehicles being dismantled for no apparent reason.
- Unfamiliar people suspiciously lurking around your neighborhood, parking areas, or vehicles.

The CHP wants you to call **1-800-TELL-CHP** and report this activity.

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"The CHP and California's Statewide Vehicle Theft Advisory Committee wants everyone to be aware of this crime fighting tool," added Helmick.

Remember, report suspicious vehicle theft activity by calling **1-800-TELL-CHP**. For crimes in progress, always call 911. For more information about vehicle theft prevention, contact your local CHP or law enforcement agency.

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### **Photo Opportunity**

- Sacramento's Regional Transit Light Rail Train with the 1-800-TELL-CHP logo will be taken off line at 12<sup>th</sup> & Q streets for photograph opportunities.
- CHP Media Relations Officer Kelly Baraga will critique vehicle theft prevention techniques and also identify high target vehicles from an adjacent parking facility.
- CHP Valley Division personnel have arranged for an on-site vehicle break-in and subsequent vehicle stripping.